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NOTES AND NEWS.

SIR JAMES LYALL and his colleagues of the Famine Commission issued their report in Calcutta on Wednesday last and, if the summary printed by the *Times* yesterday (Thursday) from its Calcutta correspondent is adequate, the Commission has proved as barren as the most complacent bureaucrat could wish. It will be remembered that on January 26, 1897, Sir William Wedderburn moved an amendment to the Address in the House of Commons in these terms:—"And we humbly pray that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct that a full and independent enquiry shall forthwith be made into the condition of the masses of the Indian people, with a view to ascertain the causes by reason of which they are helpless to resist even the first attacks of famine and pestilence." The amendment was rejected by 127 votes (217—90). But Lord George Hamilton in his speech in reply said:—

> I agree with the hon. baronet that the opportunity this famine affords ought not to be allowed to pass without our taking every opportunity to enquire into and ascertain the best methods of protecting the people of India from the recurrence of similar calamities.

That seemed a satisfactory assurance, and some of us hoped at the time that it indicated the appointment of a really thorough-going Commission of Enquiry, not into symptoms, but into causes. When, however, the Commission was appointed both its composition and the terms of the reference to it showed pretty plainly that the official pride which regards any thorough investigation as a slight upon official perfection had once more carried the day, and that we were to have an enquiry not into "the best methods of protecting the people of India from the recurrence of similar calamities" but merely into possible amendments of the Famine Code. Official complacency could not stand examination of the causes which make the mass of the Indian people helpless victims of famine. Sir James Lyall and his colleagues were therefore required to take the disease for granted and to bring their intellects to bear upon mere palliatives of the symptoms. "The Commission," the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on December 6, 1897, "will be much smaller than that of 1878, its object being virtually to consider details only."

The result appears from the telegraphic summary to be such as was to be expected. The report of the Commission is like the play of the "Stranger," in which, according to Thackeray, the remarks made by the various characters were not valuable in themselves either for their sound sense, their novelty of observation, or their poetic fancy. "The recommendations made," we are told, "closely follow those of the Famine Commissioners in 1878, but various suggestions are made as to matters of detail." Precisely—"its object being virtually to consider details only." Sir James Lyall and his colleagues have, like the Northern farmer's parson, said what they ought to have said. It seems that the Sanitary Commissioners' opinion that the rise in the mortality after the famine works were closed was "due to perfectly normal diseases acting on an enfeebled population" is accepted by the Famine Commission. But neither that opinion nor any other gets rid of the mortality due to famine, and if the Famine Commission has not insisted upon a frank and full statement of the number of deaths directly or indirectly attributable to the famine it has been guilty of a scandalous neglect of duty. It goes without saying that Sir Antony MacDonnell is praised—quite rightly—and that the slackness of the authorities in the Central Provinces is censured. "The officials," we read, "took too sanguine a view. They did not regard the distress as acute, but the high death-rates told another tale." The Commission expresses the opinion "that the degree of success in the saving of life and the relief of distress was not all it should or might have been." We shall of course return to this report on a future occasion; but if, as the summary in the *Times* suggests, it deals only with the relief system, there will probably not be much to be said except that it has overlooked the main question. Natural causes may account for the recurrence of famine. They do not account for the continued inability of a civilised people to resist its ravages. The Government of India sees clearly enough that it cannot look into the causes of disastrous famine without putting its policy in the melting-pot.

Lord George Hamilton's public remarks about India, it seems, do not interest even local newspapers. We referred last week to the meagreness of the summaries of his speech at Acton which were given in the London daily newspapers. The local prints, we find, add nothing—save indeed the precious information that his attack upon his critics was delivered "in scathing terms." One can only hope that the scathing terms did not provoke the humour of the Acton Tories, as they have more than once provoked the humour of the House of Commons. On Monday last Lord George Hamilton addressed a meeting of the Scottish Primrose League at Glasgow, and this is the sort of summary which the newspapers give of his reference to India:

> Lord George Hamilton then made reference to the success with which the Indian Government had met the simultaneous difficulties of plague, famine, and war, and attributed much of India's recuperation to the retiring Viceroy, Lord Elgin. He expressed every confidence in the new Viceroy who was succeeding him.

One would gladly read some of the particulars of that "success." But this is all one finds in the *Glasgow Herald*, the party organ in the town where the meeting was held:—

> When we turn to India you, as Scotchmen, I think, have a special interest in congratulating the Government on the success with which they have passed through the formidable crises and difficulties with which they have had to contend. Plague, famine, war, with all their attendant evils, were simultaneously faced by the Indian Government. A strain was put upon them which would have taxed the resources of an older and more homogeneous State. If we have successfully emerged from that ordeal, and if at the present moment India is showing extraordinary signs of recuperation, the credit for that success is mainly due to a young Scotchman, Lord Elgin—(cheers)—who went out some few years ago an unknown and an untried man. He returns back to his country a successful statesman, having tried and succeeded in the very highest branches of statesmanship and of administration. (Cheers.) And now, gentlemen, that these difficulties are over, I trust that an era of prosperity will dawn upon India. (Cheers.) I have every confidence in the new Viceroy who is about to succeed Lord Elgin. (Cheers.) No Viceroy has ever undertaken the charge of India better equipped by inclination, by training or by nature than Lord Curzon; and no man in his public speeches has given more fitting expression to the ideal which he will strive to maintain in the highest post which a subject of the Queen can attain to. (Cheers.) And therefore I trust—I sincerely trust—that the Georgian era in India may be one of unmitigated prosperity to the whole of that country. (Cheers.)

From which one gathers nothing but the stereotyped personal compliments and the surprising intelligence that plague and war "are over." Does the Secretary of State read—we will not say the Indian journals, but even—the telegrams from India in his daily paper?

The news during the week of the movements of the Fakir, whom people are ceasing to call "mad," has been less alarming. He is said no longer to threaten the Chitral road, and some of the troops which had been hurriedly moved up to resist his advance have been sent back to Rawal Pindi. But a telegram from Harbut Khana on

Wednesday reported further fighting on Monday between the Fakir and the Nawab of Dir, and it is painfully obvious that the situation created by the "forward" policy keeps, and must continue to keep, the military authorities in India in a state of nervous apprehension, tempered now and then by ludicrously unfounded hopefulness. A military correspondent strongly urged in the *Times* last Saturday that we must "capture or put an end to the mad Mullah" because "if allowed to escape again he may continue to pick holes in the logic with which the Indian Government strove last year to impress the border tribes." A pretty sequel to the policy which was to secure peace for ever and ever!

The Indian papers comment on the publication, so long after the event, of the despatch dealing with Mr. Thorburn's breach of official etiquette. The *Pioneer* remarks:—"Surprise will be felt that at this distance of time the matter has not been allowed to rest." It is noteworthy that in the despatch objection is not taken to Mr. Thorburn's joining in a public discussion on the policy of the Government—that would have touched Sir James Westland also—but only to his public opposition. Galileo "apologised" for asserting that the earth moved, but it went on moving all the same. Mr. Thorburn may be assured that his apology will not do away with the effect of his famous speech.

Sir Edward Grey seems to be a rather important personage just now. Some interest, therefore, attaches to this passage from his speech at Blackburn last Friday (December 2):—

Why was there not an attempt to come to an understanding with Russia, instead of snarling at her heels? He fully admitted that Russian methods of diplomacy would have to be altered if there was to be an understanding between the two countries. But our policy had been framed, not deliberately, but innocently, in such a way as to create the *maximum* of suspicion and then to give the impression of the *maximum* of weakness. The Government ought to be clear in their own minds what was essential in the interests of this country, make that clear to other countries, and then stick to the position they took up. The China question was for us and other countries the most difficult of all questions abroad, and it was absolutely essential to the peace of Asia that there should be an understanding between us and the Russian Government. He believed the latter was sincerely anxious for peace. (Hear, hear.)

What does Lord Curzon say?

The speech with which the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal opened the Session of the Bengal Council has been heard and read with more than ordinary interest. "There are at present no new Bills to be introduced," said Sir John Woodburn. "The main duty in the Session will be the consideration in Select Committee of the Calcutta Municipal Bill." The great city of Calcutta and interested observers throughout India watch with anxiety the course of this Bill. If it becomes law in its present form, it means destruction of self-government in Calcutta and withdrawal of confidence from the leaders of the people who have done so well in the past, and through whom alone the mass of the people can be reached. It will substitute for successful popular administration an unwise and unworkable despotism. Sir John Woodburn apparently does not deny to the present popular delegates of Calcutta credit for what they have done:—

They are entitled to all the credit (he said), and it is a high one, of realising the value and necessity of the great schemes which have been drawn up for their approval, such as those for the drainage of the city, and the construction of the Harrison Road. They have not shrunk from the heavy taxation which was needed to bring these beneficent projects into effect; and I have myself had evidence of the high public spirit and laborious circumspection which many members of the Corporation bring to the discharge of their municipal duties. These are qualities which not only in Calcutta alone have elicited my respect, and it is a pleasure to me to have this opportunity of acknowledging them.

Later Sir John Woodburn said:—

I look upon it as of the greatest value to the administration of the city that there should be numerous wards and numerous delegates. The information and advice about local needs which these delegates bring will be of most important service. There could be no more excellent illustration than in the assistance they gave last hot weather in calming the fears of the people, and establishing temporary hospitals which were the best means of reassuring them.

Such, in the words of the Lieutenant-Governor, has been the success of municipal administration in Calcutta during the last twenty-two years, and under his own supervision during last hot weather. How are the delegates to be rewarded? Practically all executive power is to be taken away from them and conferred upon a committee of twelve men, only one-third of whom will be elected by the delegates. As Sir John Woodburn admits, "the change does convey a slight." Have the delegates deserved this slight after twenty-two years of faithful work? Do not our administrators see that it must be impossible henceforward to secure zealous co-operation on the part of the people if we withdraw from them the confidence and the authority which have evoked that co-operation?

Sir John Woodburn promises two concessions: (1) the bye-laws of the Corporation are to require the sanction of the municipal commissioners, not of the general committee; and (2) the Budget expenditure determined by the commissioners is not to be exceeded by the committee. These concessions are good, so far as they go. But it would be silly to think that serious and practical men will care to become municipal commissioners if their work is merely to pass a budget once a year and bye-laws once in three years, and then to go to sleep. Is it not possible for Sir John Woodburn to allow some further "graceful concessions" so as to make the Bill something other than a "slight" upon the municipal commissioners? Is it not possible for him to allow them, say, to elect two-thirds of the executive committee, the Government retaining the right of appointing the remaining one-third from the commissioners?

A like want of confidence in the people vitiates the constitution of the Bombay City Trust. There are three official members—the district commanding officer, the district collector, and the municipal commissioner. Then come the chairman and three trustees nominated by the Government. The Chairman of the Post Trust and two nominees of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Mill-Owners' Association, make up a total of ten. Over against these are merely four representatives of the Corporation (*i.e.* of the population of Bombay) forming less than one-third of the total number. "Wonderful City Trust!" exclaims a correspondent of the *Madras Standard*, "and wonderful way indeed of inaugurating another branch of local self-government! Its spirit is all that which has now been agitating the Calcutta Corporation. There is to be the preponderance of the white Brahman."

A correspondent writes:—

Mr. Ranchodlal Chotalal of Ahmedabad was quite worthy of the kind words you write of him in your issue of November 25. Indeed, his death will be a serious loss to the city. I had the pleasure of some little personal acquaintance with Mr. Ranchodlal, having met him several times at his own house in Ahmedabad. The good-hearted and venerable Municipal President was a friend to all, and was beloved by everybody. His splendid municipal achievements and progressive ideas generally upon all civic and especially sanitary questions made him first greatly mistrusted but finally as much respected. His fair treatment of the large body of workmen in his own employ helped to teach even his enemies to believe in him, for his actions affecting his own interests were as upright as his public policy. But no one will ever know how much he suffered from his own orthodox Hindu friends when he first advocated an improved water supply for the city. The most trying accusations were made against his motives, and for a long time he and his scheme were attacked mercilessly by the high-caste Hindu citizens who then believed that municipal water meant danger to their caste. But the brave old man held on his way and won the battle, and Ahmedabad has now for many years owned its well and waterworks on the banks of the Sabarmati river, pouring into the city, even when the river is a mere trickle of water in an ocean of sand, in the hot season, a bountiful supply of pure fresh water. After the works were laid down the municipal water was severely boycotted by many rigid Hindus who clung to their caste wells, but gradually Mr. Ranchodlal saw the number of consumers increase until the majority of the inhabitants had availed themselves of the supply offered to each house—the idea of which they had formerly so bitterly opposed. In many other matters Mr. Ranchodlal Chotalal's municipal leadership greatly benefited his city, while his long years of example in courageous public spirit and loyal co-operation with the Government will remain a rich civic heritage to those in the historical old city who shall come after him. Such men are the strongest possible justification of the wisdom of Lord Ripon's far-seeing policy of trust in the people of India.

In quoting portions of a reverend gentleman's speech at Clonmel a few days ago (as given in the *Freeman's Journal*) we have no desire that the free utterance of opinion by our Irish fellow-subjects should be curbed:—

He never took the oath of allegiance to England, and he did not think she had any claim on his loyalty. His ancestors had fought for hundreds of years against English power; and was he to be told to be loyal to that power? ("No, no," and cheers.) His grandfather and

of selfish extravagance which is generated by war and useless railways. In fact you shut your eyes and fail to recognise a system of government which is rotten to the core."

"What would you propose doing?" enquired Sir Adam with a twinkle in his eye.

"I would throw political economy to the winds, and embark on the broadest schemes of philanthropy by reversing the present order of things. Instead of railways in India, I would have a network of canals for irrigation and navigation purposes. I would also have a Government fleet of sea-going steamers built specially for carrying coal and large cargoes of grain. Tell me of the company that has failed to pay handsome dividends from steamers that are worked by a Lascar crew? Why even the river steamers (that used to ply on the Ganges before the railway choked them off) paid forty to eighty per cent. on each season's working. India by means of Government steamers should monopolise the trade of China, Japan, South and North America."

"These dreams of conquest are all very well, but where is the money to come from for gigantic enterprises such as you propose?" was the question put by Sir Adam, who appeared to be cynically amused at the enthusiasm displayed by the young man.

"Money can easily be raised for the purpose in England, and the duty on cotton would pay the interest on the loan. Anyhow, to build canals and Government steamers which would be worked almost entirely by Indians is much better for the people of the country than wasting money on frontier wars. It would be the greatest incentive to emigration to give the people a longing for a maritime life."

"It is hopeless to think of saving the revenue that is now derived from the cotton duties. These duties are soon to be abolished altogether."

"Then God save the poor of India if Manchester and railway speculators from England are allowed to exploit the country," remarked Kenneth Macrae as he rose to leave the room.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

(FROM A PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.)

LORD KITCHENER OF KHARTUM has left England again for Egypt, and he is, I should think, profoundly thankful to escape from the eternal round of municipal addresses and the more perilous experience of municipal feasts. There is beginning to be just the least uneasy suspicion over here that we have been rather over-doing our eulogies and panegyrics in this connexion. It may be that one of these days we shall have a really big war and shall meet a foeman worthy of our steel. How in the world our able editors will then be able to find adjectives and superlatives to suit the occasion is more than I can say. And the same remark applies more or less with regard to the distribution of medals and orders. There have been more of these decorations given away in connexion with the recent little campaign in Egypt than there were handed over to the heroes of the Crimean campaign or after the crowning victory of Waterloo.

I have been privileged to see something of Lord Kitchener during his stay with us, and I find that he is by no means a bloodthirsty fighting man. On the contrary his victory was more the result of careful planning and scheming during weary months of preparation than of the actual fighting. In this Kitchener appears in pleasant contrast to the staff officers engaged in the late operations beyond the North-West frontier of India. Those operations have been justly condemned because of the treachery and the breach of faith of which they were the outcome. But quite apart from the policy involved there was the question of tactics, and about this I heard something recently when I was travelling home from the East. I met more than one officer returning invalided from India, and they acknowledged that there had been the most ghastly blundering on the part of our highly-placed and highly-paid (by starving India) officers who were responsible for the campaign. The rank and file, "Tommies," as they are called by military men, did not retain complete confidence in all their leaders—I use a mild phrase. Now in Egypt, on the contrary, the native troops had such absolute confidence in Kitchener and his chief assistants that they stood firm even when the Khalifa had turned the flank of our side. And that is why I am prepared to raise my hat to Lord Kitchener, though I think he has been over-praised. He has the gift of inspiring confidence in his followers, and that is the sure mark of a leader of men. Moreover he has shown a willingness to follow up his victory with some attempt to improve the mental and moral condition of the conquered, which is creditable quite apart from the question whether his plan is the best that can be conceived. Too often a soldier thinks that his business is confined to butchery.

The reassembling of Parliament has been fixed for February 7, and already the *quidnuncs* are beginning to prophesy after their kind either a very quiet or a particularly stormy Session. It has been my fate to watch Parliamentary developments for some years, and I have come to the conclusion that in no field of mundane matters is prediction so dangerous. Take last Session for instance. Who could have dreamed that the tightest corner in which this so-called strongest Government of modern times would find itself was to be in connexion with vaccination, of all things? Yet so it turned out, for as will be remembered the Government made a pitiful surrender. The supporters of the Government considered it to be a surrender to ignorant clamour. The other side felt quite justified in saying "Thank you for nothing," seeing that the result had been merely a paltry compromise, a Parliamentary dodge in no way connected with principle or conviction. Who can say whether some such unexpected incident will or will not crop up during the next Session?

But while I am unwilling to predict with anything like confidence it is at least probable that next Session will be a better one for the Opposition than for Ministers. I base that notion upon the fact that the Government has reached that time in its life when things as a rule begin to go wrong with Governments. It is a little more than middle-aged, its energies will naturally become relaxed, and its friends slack in their support. At such a time a Government begins to await the sunset and the curfew with a more or less chastened equanimity. On the other side, an old parliamentary hand like Sir William Harcourt will know that now has come his best opportunity for successful attack. Just as the friends of the Government are beginning to be either discontented, or bored, or cloyed with the sweets of office, so the Opposition, especially the young lions (if any) of Liberalism, will roar after their prey. So next Session ought to be lively, though I do not therefore predict that it will be.

I have referred to Sir William Harcourt, and this reminds me of an interesting chat I had the other night with one who has served with him in more than one Government. It is really surprising that Sir William keeps up his spirits and his jovial fighting powers as he does, for those who know him well and are acquainted with his cherished ambitions are well aware that he has been bitterly disappointed in nearly all those ambitions. More than once he has frankly declared to his friends that he would rather have been Lord Chief Justice of England than anything else. "Mansfield's place is *the* place after all," he has been in the habit of saying. Yet twice since he has been a Liberal leader the Liberal party has had the gift of that position, and it has gone to others—Coleridge and Russell. Again he would have liked the position of Speaker of the House of Commons when Mr. Speaker Brand retired; but Mr. Gladstone chose the son of his old friend Sir Robert Peel. And yet again Sir William, like every lawyer, has had his eye on the Woolsack, but that position also has not been his, and never will be. It is of course notorious that he came very near being Prime Minister, but in such a case a miss is as good as a mile, and he missed it. It is when I think of these repeated disappointments that I admire his sturdy and cheery fighting front in the Commons, and I can also forgive any little explosions of temper to which he may give vent.

I find that there is a sort of more or less settled campaign being undertaken by some advanced Liberals against the House of Lords as at present constituted. The other night the Eighty Club had a secret meeting in connexion with this movement. The Eighty Club was once described in the House of Commons by Mr. Labouchere as a collection of "eminent prigs." I should be sorry to endorse that verdict, for many of its members are certainly not prigs,

and some are by general consent not eminent. But it seems strange to me that a political organisation—and a fighting political club too—should think that a secret chat from which the Press is carefully excluded will have any sort of influence. Apart from that, however, I doubt if a campaign against the House of Lords is going to "take on," as the expression is just now. It is of little use submitting to a public meeting in this country the bald academic proposition that the House of Lords possesses powers which should not be entrusted to a non-representative institution. The time to tackle the Lords is immediately after they have committed some glaring offence against representative government. That great leader, that superb genius, Mr. Gladstone, knew this well enough. His courage was always equal to any emergency, and when the Lords mutilated the Parish Councils Bill, he was not only ready but anxious to fight the issue out before the whole country at once. Alas! he was encumbered by timid lieutenants, and the opportunity was missed. If the Lords are assailed just when some act of theirs has irritated the people they will be beaten; but to discuss their constitutional *status* in cold blood may do as a subject for a chit-chat at the Eighty Club—but will not "enthuse the public worth a cent," as the Americans would say.

CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THURSDAY, December 1.—Speaking at Lowestoft, Mr. Asquith contended that it was only by a return of the Liberal party to power that education could be placed under complete popular control, the land tenure system in towns be reformed, the Parliamentary franchise cleared from its present anomalies, and the House of Lords dealt with.

The French Senate discussed and passed a Bill introduced by M. Constans extending to courts-martial the law of December, 1897, by which accused persons were entitled to the assistance of counsel at the preliminary examinations. Colonel Picquart continued his evidence before the Court of Cassation. M. Hervé, the editor of the Royalist *Soleil*, added his name to the list of those protesting against the Picquart prosecution.

The Lord Mayor presided at the Mansion House over a meeting, largely representative of the banking and mercantile interests of the City, held to consider Lord Kitchener's proposals for the establishment and endowment of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartum. Lord Kitchener said he had always thought that any attempt to raise the moral and intellectual tone of the people must be doing God's service, and by giving the proposed college to the people of the Sudan they would be making our flag a symbol not only of our power and glory, but of our friendship. The Governor of the Bank of England, in moving a resolution approving the scheme, stated that the directors had voted the sum of £2,000 to the fund. He wished to correct an impression that the amount of the fund would be limited to £100,000.

FRIDAY, December 2.—A proclamation appeared in the *London Gazette* proroguing the meeting of Parliament till Tuesday, February 7, when it was to assemble for the despatch of business.

Mr. Alger, the American Secretary for War, in his report issued to-day recommended that, in view of the requirements of the new possessions, the regular army of the United States be increased to 100,000 men, and that a portion of this force be recruited from the inhabitants of the islands. He also suggested that it would be wise economy on the part of the United States to build a railway practically through Cuba, with branches to the leading towns on the coast.

It was officially announced in Paris that the Cabinet Council had discussed at length "the various incidents to which the provisional enquiry now being made by the Court of Cassation" had given rise. It was believed that the chief topic of discussion was the communication to the Court of the various secret documents collected since 1894 in confirmation of the judgment of the Court-martial. The Franco-Italian Convention was unanimously approved by the Tariff Committee of the Chamber.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice, M.P., speaking at Montrose, said that the most disturbing feature in the European situation was the activity of the clerical party in foreign countries against justice, order, and liberty. They had also a clerical party at home—that of sacerdotalism in the Church, defying the law and aiming at supremacy. The danger could only be met by an appeal to that love of order and liberty which had made this country what it was.

Mr. Chamberlain, in a letter to the West Indian Committee, intimated that a free grant of £40,000 would be made to Barbados, and of £25,000 to St. Vincent, to assist in repairing the damage caused by the recent hurricane, and that in addition a loan of £25,000 would be made to the Government of each of the two islands, to be lent to the planters on certain specified conditions as to the application of the money and as to repayment, with a view to meeting the immediate difficulties caused by the storm.

SATURDAY, December 3.—The Queen visited Netley Hospital and inspected the sick and wounded from the Sudan, with some of whom her Majesty conversed, while to two she presented distinguished conduct medals. The Sirdar also visited the hospital, accompanied the Queen on her tour of inspection, and handed the Khedive's medals for service in the Sudan to 180 of the invalids who had taken part in the campaign.

Colonel Picquart was under examination all day in the Court of Cassation. The belief was said to be growing in Paris that the court-martial on Colonel Picquart would, of its own accord, postpone the trial till after the decision of the Court of Cassation in the Dreyfus case.

M. François Deloncle wrote to the Paris *Temps* saying that the British Press was rightly celebrating the noble initiative of Lord Kitchener in establishing a great English school at Khartum. Unwilling to remain behind England in this work of civilisation, a group of Frenchmen had taken in its turn the initiative in establishing two native educational seminaries—first, an "Ecole de France," at Khartum, and later an "Ecole Marchand" at Fashoda. The greater part of the necessary funds was already assured by generous donations. M. Deloncle pointed out that at Khartum and Fashoda the French enjoyed the same privileges as the English.

The Native Legislative Council of Egypt approved the Budget for 1899 with an expression of satisfaction as regards the items of expenditure on public instruction and the reduction of taxation.

MONDAY, December 5.—The United States Congress met in Washington, when President M'Kinley's Message was read to both Houses. He did not discuss the government or the tariff of the new possessions. Such discussion would only be appropriate after the treaty of peace had been ratified. In the meantime and until Congress legislated otherwise, it would be his duty to continue the military governments which had existed since the occupation. So soon as Cuba was pacified it would be necessary to direct the people to form a government for themselves. Spanish rule must be replaced by a just, benevolent, and humane Government, created by the people of Cuba, and capable of performing all international obligations. Until there was complete tranquillity in the island, and a stable government had been inaugurated, the military occupation would be continued. The construction of the Nicaragua canal he thought more than ever indispensable, and American policy called more imperatively than ever for its control by the United States Government. He asked for authority to appoint a committee to study commercial and industrial conditions in China. American relations with Great Britain had continued on a most friendly footing. He expressed the hope that he would be able to communicate the favourable conclusion of pending negotiations in respect to Canada. The new external relations of the United States compel the prompt adoption of a maritime policy. The President strongly approved Secretary Alger's suggestion for the increase of the regular army to at least 100,000 men, and Secretary Long's proposal for the addition of three new battleships and 12 cruisers to the navy.

TUESDAY, December 6.—A service of thanksgiving "for the happy termination of civil disorder in Crete" was held at St. Peter's Church, Great Windmill Street, London; and a banquet to celebrate the liberation of Crete from Turkish rule afterwards took place at the Criterion Restaurant. Lord Coleridge presided, and Sir C. Dilke, M.P., and Canon Wilberforce were among the speakers. Sir Lewis Morris recited an ode written by him for the occasion. No deaths, however, were reported.

The Mahometans of Candia had, it was said, addressed a long petition to Queen Victoria as a Sovereign having millions of Mahometan subjects, begging her to extend her protection to them, and setting forth their grievances.

Sir E. Monson, the British Ambassador in Paris, speaking at the annual banquet of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, said British policy was and had been perfectly honest, truthful, and straightforward. He hoped that by this time the idea of Great Britain being unduly squeezable and liable to make graceful but impolitic concessions had been thoroughly exploded; but at the same time her diplomatists were bound to observe due courtesy and moderation of language.

The French Minister in Peking had, it was reported, presented to the Tsung-li-Yamên an ultimatum threatening that unless the French missionary now a prisoner in the hands of the Szuchuan rebels were released within ten days French troops would be ordered to cross the frontier.

WEDNESDAY, December 7.—The report of the Famine Commission was issued in Calcutta. The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* said the recommendations made closely followed those of the Famine Commission in 1880, but various suggestions were made as to matters of detail.

Lord Kitchener left Victoria Station to-day by the 11 a.m. train for Dover, *en route* for Egypt. A number of his friends assembled at the station to bid him farewell. On leaving England he thanked all who had subscribed to, or sympathise

EMPIRE AND HYPOCRISY.

SINCE the fourth crusade, when the soldiers of the cross who set forth to drive the infidel from the holy places turned aside to subvert the Christian throne of Constantinople, history has afforded no instance of so dramatic a change of purpose as that of the United States in beginning the war against Spain as the champion of Cuban freedom and ending it as the creator of a new Empire. Henceforth, unless at the eleventh hour better counsels prevail, the chosen home of liberty must become a centre of absolute government, and the great principles which have been handed down from the founders of the Republic must give place to the maxims of domination and conquest. For America the long era of peace has closed, and with a civilisation industrial in its aims and its ideals she is to be given the task of ruling a people in a far different stage of development. There has been nothing in her treatment of the North American Indians or the Negroes within her borders to give her much hope of success. There is much in her absorption in industrial aims to promise difficulty. Already her small navy is largely manned by foreigners, and her small army is paid at an extravagant rate. What then will be the material and the expense of army and navy when they are so increased as to vie with those of Europe? All the material advantages of her freedom from foreign complication, all the moral advantages of the consciousness that she has no designs on the liberty of others, are now to be thrown away. Spain has cried out loudly against the interference of America in Cuba. But she will soon be avenged. For centuries the empire of which she has been so proud has been sucking her life-blood. Now, when she is at the nadir of her fortunes, but free at last to resume the upward path, she has surrendered the fatal load to her conqueror.

But with whatever misgivings the wiser part of the American people is surveying the future now opening before it, the Imperialists of England feel nothing but delight. They are, indeed, bound to gain, however much America may lose. If America succeeds in founding an empire, England will have a companion in encroachment to keep her in countenance, and will be able to defend her aggressions on the plea of an over-ruling necessity to which even the great Republic has had to bend. If America fails, England will be able to boast that she alone of the nations is fitted for empire. In either case her schemes of imperial aggrandisement will be free from criticism in the only quarter where she is much affected by it. It is not surprising therefore that the *Spectator*, most unctuous of Imperialists, which always finds the best motives for the worst deeds, warmly welcomes the new departure in American history, and appeals to the American people to institute the government of their new empire in that spirit of hypocrisy with which it has so long defended British exploitation and aggression in the Tropics. Here for instance are some of the fine phrases in which it couches its advice to the new Imperialists of the West:—

> The main, the essential, principle which the Americans must pursue in establishing their sway over their new empire is that in every case the government set up must be for the benefit of the peoples governed. . . . What the Americans must consider is what scheme of government will be most productive of happiness to the races governed. The government of a subject race is a trust, and the rulers of the protecting and controlling people must never forget that they are in the position of trustees, and bound, like trustees, to think first of the interests of the subject of the trust. . . . More important still is it that America should not look to making any direct gain out of her possessions. . . . What America must think of alone is what will suit the Philippines—what will make them prosperous. But that is not making them a tied house and re-establishing the old colonial system. The interest of the governed, that alone must be her guide, not any desire to benefit her own merchants, or, again, to do this country a good turn.

These are, indeed, excellent maxims. Let us pause for a moment to see how far they are true of that British Empire which the *Spectator* wishes the Americans to take as their exemplar and model. Nor is any wrong done to the *Spectator* by taking India as the touchstone by which the sincerity of its professions may be tested, for it is to India especially that the apologists of empire turn as to the most splendid example of success. In the first place, the *Spectator* insists "that the government set up must be for the benefit of the peoples governed." This then is to be the first test. Now let us look at the Government of India. Is it for the benefit of the governed that they should be ruled by aliens ignorant of the country, despising and sometimes insulting its inhabitants, and, if they live up to the gospel of Benjamin Kidd, glorying in their indifference to Indian opinion? Can it be for the real benefit of a country that its own people are forbidden to take any part in the higher offices of government? And is it true that these alien rulers are so wise and good that they can know better how to govern India than the Indians themselves? Look at the history of the measures for the prevention of plague, the harshness, the uselessness, the ignorance of Indian feelings, the riots provoked, the ill-will engendered, the months of misery and unrest, followed by—the victory of the all-wise and benevolent Government?—no, the surrender of the Government and the modification everywhere of the obnoxious rules in the direction long indicated by Indian public opinion. Here indeed is an object lesson in government "for the benefit of the peoples governed." Again, is government by bastille and *lettres-de-cachet* "for the benefit of the peoples governed?" Is the imprisonment of Indians without trial, without opportunity of defence, and even without any definite accusation, part of this benevolent scheme? Is injustice to individuals a consequence of the reign of imperial justice? Arguments of this kind have been heard of late from the General Staff in France; but even they shrank from defending such things in phrases of such hypocrisy. Nor can the *Spectator* fall back on the plea that the errors and iniquities of the present are to be atoned for in the future by training up the Indians in self-government, for we are told "Mr. Benjamin Kidd . . . . lays down the true principles upon which a Western people should deal with tropical dependencies," and Mr. Kidd makes it a fundamental part of his theory that the people of the tropics are to be excluded from power practically for ever.

Yet there is something "more important still"—"that America should not look to making any direct gain out of her possessions." Of course there is no direct gain from India. Her exports may exceed her imports by Rx. 35,000,000 in a single year; millions may be laid down in London in bad years as in good, the deficit being made up by mortgaging the future; but there is no direct gain. Assuredly there is no gain to the mass of the English people, only to those who condescend to manage her affairs, who drag her into wars beyond the frontier and in their high-handed ignorance do more to provoke riot than to stay pestilence. But there is certainly a direct loss to India, a gaping wound through which the life-blood flows, and in the face of this terrible drain on the people of India how monstrous is it to say that we think alone of "what will make them prosperous." Prosperous, with famine recurring at almost regular intervals and becoming an established institution! Prosperous, with the peasant living on Rs. 18 a year, while it takes from Rs. 31 to Rs. 44 to keep the prisoner in our Indian gaols! It is not enough to say that things were as bad in India before our time, though it is doubtful if famine ever recurred so frequently as in the last hundred years. But if it were so it would be no answer. We are there, according to the *Spectator*, to "make" the people "prosperous." This is to be the return for all the unpleasantness of alien government, the loss of power and dignity, the contempt shown by the ruling race, the want of sympathy with Indian motives, the want of insight into Indian ideas. It is held up as a duty to make the people prosperous. Have we done so? It may be a task beyond our powers. But this the *Spectator* cannot admit. It may be that wars beyond the frontier and the most expensive system of government in the civilised world have hindered the work. But this is to admit that we have failed, that at the best we have been weaving the web of Penelope, undoing the work of our ablest administrators by financial deficit and economic loss. And if a government be so alien as to be ignorant of the wishes and feelings of the people, so regardless of ordinary prudence as it proved to be in its earlier attempts at plague prevention, so foolhardy as to embark with an impoverished treasury on a series of adventures beyond the frontier, so dead to all sense of justice as it showed itself in its treatment of the Natus, so expensive as to make a ruinous taxation necessary while the lower branches of the administration are starved, can that government be spoken of as most productive of happiness to the races governed? Let the peasants of India make answer, the peasants worn down by the crushing land-tax, ruined by the money-lenders who fatten under the alien laws of our sublime

law courts, paying the salt tax of from 500 to 4,000 per cent., and struggling on from famine to famine on Rs. 18 a year. Before the Americans are asked to introduce this beneficent system into the Philippines, would it not be well to enquire whether the misery of the Philippines yet reaches this point?

But should the Americans, inspired by Mr. Chamberlain and the *Spectator*, think that it is the Philippines alone that will suffer if they yield to the tawdry lure of empire, they are very much mistaken. The financial difficulties have been already mentioned; but the political evils are still more threatening. The men who are to exercise arbitrary rule in the East will return to introduce reactionary methods into the free life of the West. The people, dazzled by the hopes of empire, and proud, not of the old traditions of liberty, but of the new lust of rule, will neglect the reforms needed at home. The things that touch them most nearly will seem trivial; and peaceful progress will no longer be the national ideal. America will cease to be the first of free peoples, and will become a second-rate imitator of the conquering nations of Europe. Such is the future that is being prepared for the land of Franklin and Washington, of Jefferson and Lincoln.

THE MEETING OF TWO REFORMERS.

By Donald N. Reid.

"CAN his Honour see me?" was the question put by Kenneth Macrae to the aide-de-camp at Belvedere, as he introduced himself to that young gentleman as a planter from Behar.

"Yes, he is anxious to see you," said the smiling Captain Flirt.

"I hope my dress will not outrage his Honour's feelings? It was too hot to put on a black coat," said the perspiring Macrae.

"It is all right; come along." And Kenneth was ushered into the presence of the great man who had recently assumed the reins of government over the densely-populated provinces of Bengal and Behar.

Sir Adam Evelyn was a man with a history; but his appearance belied his character, since he certainly looked the very last man who would be taken for a favoured squire of dames. He was big and fat, red-haired and ugly, with small, restless, piglike eyes. He, however, had a cynical and ready tongue, which was backed by a clever and facile style of writing. Moreover, he bore the reputation of being both a very good friend and a most bitter enemy. As a young civilian he had earned a certain notoriety by eloping with another man's wife; and this notoriety was enhanced when he again brought his name prominently before the public by heading a crusade against the indigo-planters of Lower Bengal. These two events in his career stamped him as a man who was unfettered by the conventionalities of a hypocritical society. It was therefore with no small trepidation that the planters of Behar came to learn that this powerful Ishmaelite had made up his mind to reform their system of dealing with the rayats of the farm villages attached to their factories. Advancing years, however, had curbed the impetuosity of Sir Adam Evelyn's nature, and he agreed to see one or two of the leading planters before taking action against them as a body. This led to Kenneth Macrae's being deputed to appear before his Honour in Calcutta.

"Well, Mr. Macrae, I am glad to meet you, as Hastings tells me that you have the reputation of treating your rayats fairly and liberally," were the words with which the Lieutenant-Governor greeted the planter.

"It was very good of Mr. Hastings to say so," replied Kenneth.

"I wanted particularly to see you, so that you may carry back to the planters the assurance that if they will set themselves to work to put their house in order, they will receive every reasonable support from me and from my officers."

Kenneth bowed his head in grateful acknowledgment of Sir Adam's forbearance, and assured him that the Behar planters were only too willing to meet the views of Government.

"To carry out the necessary reforms," continued Sir Adam Evelyn, "an association should be established by the planters in Behar. By no other means will it be possible for you all to work in unity and peace. Moreover, the association will be able to coerce the more unscrupulous members of the planting community—the men who are at present a great danger to the stability of the industry in your districts. Here is a memorandum of the rules which I should like to see established for your guidance." And Sir Adam, taking a paper in his hand, read as follows:—"First, the discouragement of the thikadari system under which the planter leases entire villages from the zemindar; secondly, the recognition and support of the position of the rayats in regard to occupancy tenures; thirdly, the desirability of increasing the price paid to the rayats for the plant; fourthly, the establishment on a commercial basis of the industry; fifthly, the cessation of enforcement of labour and rendering the rayat a free agent." Throwing the paper aside, the Lieutenant-Governor concluded by saying, "If the planters establish an association, and introduce these reforms, and loyally see that they are carried out, you may tell your friends in Behar that they will have nothing to fear from me or from my officers."

Kenneth was struck by the manner in which Sir Adam had grasped the situation, and he cordially replied: "I can only repeat that your Honour will find the planters of Behar quite ready to meet your views and carry out your instructions."

"I am glad to receive this assurance from you," replied the Governor. "By the bye, Hastings has sent me this pamphlet of yours on 'Improved Agriculture for Behar.' Do you really believe it possible to improve the agricultural practices which have been in vogue from time immemorial?"

"Yes, sir," said Kenneth, "I firmly believe that the soil of Behar can be made to produce double the quantity of grain that it does at present. I fully admit that many of the rayats are careful and laborious cultivators; but even the best of them have not the means and the knowledge necessary to work their holdings to advantage; and in every village will be found men holding land who have not even a goat to their names."

"There is certainly a fearful struggle for existence going on among them in the present year," replied Sir Adam. "But still for my part I do not believe that it is necessary to manure rice lands. What more does the rice crop want than plenty of water?"

"If the water is charged with a fertilising silt then the manure is applied to the rice-crop on the most approved principles—provided that the silt is not too thick so as to injure the leaves of the plants," said Kenneth Macrae. "Artificial irrigation is everywhere necessary in Behar and in Oudh to secure the rice-crop from failure in seasons of drought. And wherever irrigation is practiced extensively there will you find the people contented and happy. The most destructive frosts and hailstorms occur in seasons of drought; but if the country were irrigated the temperature of the fields and of the atmosphere would be regulated so as to safeguard the rabi crops from destruction in years when these crops are most wanted. Remember that rice is not the principal crop in Behar, although it is a most important one. The rabi crops of wheat and barley suffer even more than rice from the rayats' primitive methods of agriculture; and in seasons of drought I have seen thousands of acres of arhar utterly ruined by frost, although irrigation would have protected the crops from harm. Moreover, sugar-cane (which is the most valuable crop in India) derives benefit not only from the moisture which has been artificially applied to the roots of the plants, but also from the coolness of the atmosphere which is brought about by the evaporation of the water from the irrigated fields."

"I quite agree with you that artificial irrigation is necessary in every district," said Sir Adam. "But unfortunately Government has not the money to spare for the development of canals on a large scale."

"Money can be found for lavish expenditure on this uncalled-for war in Afghanistan and for railway extension in years when famine is raging in nearly every Indian province," asserted Kenneth Macrae, who was determined to speak boldly on a subject that was very dear to him. "When will it be recognised that India is populated by a nation of helpless paupers, and that extraordinary measures are necessary to ameliorate their condition? You can grasp the harm that planters are working on a small scale in Behar, but you are afraid to use the knife to the bad sore

MR. DADABHAI NAOROJI IN LANCASHIRE.

MEETING AT ATHERTON.

The following report of Mr. Naoroji's recent address at Atherton is taken from the *Tyldesley Weekly Journal*:—

Having been briefly introduced by the Chairman, the Hon. DADABHAI NAOROJI, who was received with prolonged cheers, said he wanted to give them the reality of the Indian rule, not simply as it was published on paper, but as it was really conducted. In 1833 an Act was passed by which it was declared that the Indian subjects were to be treated like the British subjects, without any reference to class or creed. Mr. Bright, Lord Stanley, and the late Lord Derby made an effort to compel the Government to carry out the promises of the Act, but it remained a dead letter. Then came the terrible Mutiny. What was the cause of that Mutiny? It was the result of bad judgment. When he (the speaker) brought the question of India before the House, Sir Henry Fowler submitted that he had brought a strong indictment. Lord Salisbury had described the British rule as unjust, but there was nothing wrong with it if they would not be un-British. The British people did not know what they owed to India. What about the famines? They had ample means in England, but not so in India. What the result of the last famine was nearly all would know. England exported three hundred millions worth of goods to the whole world; but what did they send to India? Hardly eighteenpence worth per head per annum. He only wished they would govern India, as Bright said, for their own good. They could not do real good to the Indians unless they did good to themselves as well. He submitted that by the Government dealing righteously with India, England and even Lancashire would be rich and prosperous. The Anglo-Indians had promised to do something for India, but had not yet fulfilled the promise. India looked to them as responsible Englishmen to do justice to them by their votes, and one good way would be helping a few Indian gentlemen to get into Parliament. Would they let India be plundered and have no voice in the matter? It was getting high time they had justice done to them. He had to thank some of their Lancashire members in the House of Commons for the assistance they had given him with the question of India. (Hear, hear.) He was proud to say that from Leigh they sent Mr. C. P. Scott, who had all along assisted in every question connected with India which had been brought forward, and in all that Sir William Wedderburn had done Mr. Scott had been at his back. (Applause.) He had pleasure in complimenting them on the able man they had sent to Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Lord James and most of the Lancashire Liberal members had tried to do that which would do dishonour to the British name, and also to do injustice to India. There were 14 Liberal members who tried to do their duty, and at the risk of losing their seats, including Jacob Bright, William Holland, Robert Leake, Sir Joseph Leese, Ralph Neville, J. A. Roby, T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Schwann, T. Snape, Caleb Wright and others. Instead of 14 he hoped the 59 Lancashire members would stand for justice for India. Lancashire had a heart and a conscience, and would do what was right for their own country, and what was right for India. The British people had been unjust and unreasonable to India. If they would look after India their profits would be greater, and India's profits would be better, and things would be prosperous and a blessing to both. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. J. WRIGHT, in proposing a vote of thanks to the speaker, said he counted it quite an honour to be present to hear such an able man. He had read many times in the paper that in the House of Commons the name of India would empty the House. He was glad to find that they at Atherton had more sense than the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) He had noticed Lord Curzon mentioned India as the pivot of the British Empire. The lecturer had appealed to their sense of duty, and they were pleased to find that the sense of duty was not quite dead in Lancashire men. (Hear, hear.) He was pleased that the lecturer was going on a campaign round the Lancashire towns to try and make an impression on them with regard to the question of India. He had very much faith in the people of Lancashire and the people of England, who would find it their highest interest to do the right thing, and he had not the slightest doubt but that they would do it. (Applause.)

Mr. T. H. HOPE, in seconding, said it would be obvious that it was their duty as Lancashire men who believed in the principles of justice, and who were supposed to be Christians, to do all they possibly could to help the lecturer and his fellow countrymen in obtaining their rights. The resolution was carried.

Mr. NAOROJI, in responding, said he had felt encouraged by the very earnest attention that they had given him. He had been in business for 40 years. His business was Manchester produce, and shipping and every produce of India. He had been in England, with occasional returns to his home in India, for 42 years, and had come in contact with all sorts of men, and he would be stupid if he did not know their character by now.

MR. BIPIN CHANDRA PAL AT NOTTINGHAM.

A correspondent writes:—Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal addressed a large meeting of the Nottingham and Notts Band of Hope Union last Monday, on the excise administration in India. He showed that almost in every district the excise revenues were running up at least at the rate of cent. per cent. every twenty years. In Bengal the revenue was about £90,000 in 1834-35, £404,000 in 1875-76, and £891,000 in 1895-96. This large increase was absolutely due to artificial stimulus given to the trade by the opening of shops where they were not wanted. Official apologists said that the increase was only due to increase of population and the growing prosperity of the people. The ratio of increase in the population was about 20 per cent. in twenty years. The growing poverty of the classes who indulged largely in country spirits and drugs was truer than their growing prosperity. The real reason was that Government wanted money. The expensive wars required to be paid for, and as excise offered the easiest and most expansive method of raising it, they ran up these revenues beyond all normal limits.

The *Nottingham Daily Guardian* (December 6) reports Mr. Pal as follows: Mr. Chandra Pal gave a most interesting and rousing speech upon the position of India in regard to the liquor traffic, drawing a graphic picture of the intellectual and physical emancipation which India had received through the active instrumentality of England, but deploring the fact that the excise administration was responsible for the spread of the drinking evil in that great continent, where the ordinary order of trading, of demand creating supply, was reversed by the establishment of drinking shops which created demand where it was unknown before. He could not but think, however, that if they in England wrested from the hands of the Government some measure of temperance reform, of effective local option, or of prohibition, the effect of it would necessarily be felt in India.

The P. and O. s.s. "Arabia" leaves London for Bombay on December 9 with the following among other passengers:—Captain A. Tennant, Captain A. Grant, Captain and Mrs. E. D. White, Rev. and Mrs. Bull, Captain and Mrs. Young, Captain and Mrs. Fasken, Rev. and Mrs. Gundry, Mr. and Mrs. T. Lewis Ingram and five children, Major E. W. Cunliffe, H.E. Lord and Lady Curzon and family, and Mr. R. Singh.

The s.s. "Malta" (P. and O.) leaves London on December 9 for Calcutta. Her list of passengers includes the following names:—Colonel and Mrs. Gairdner, Mr. Judah, Rev. J. C. Withy, Mr. G. Kiarshall, Mr. C. W. Crozodrill, and Mr. Ezra.

The P. and O. s.s. "Caledonia," for Bombay, leaves London on December 22. Among her passengers are the following:—Colonel J. Stuart Mackenzie, Captain and Mrs. Eastmead, Mr. Keatinge, Captain and Mrs. Bramley, Colonel G. Keasley, and Lady Helen Carnegie.

The s.s. "Rewa" (British India Steam Navigation Co.) leaves London on December 16 with Mr. D. Campbell Brown, Mr. A. G. Hough, Miss E. Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. J. Evans and two children, Mr. W. H. Colley, Mr. R. C. Welch, Mr. S. Vaz, Mr. J. H. Hembery, Mr. A. C. Barber, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. J. B. Hallam, for Calcutta; and Miss Sarah Bustard, Miss Madden, Mrs. L. Vincent, Mr. V. Floyd, and Mr. R. H. Campbell, for Madras.

Lady Curzon will succeed Lady Elgin as President of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, and as both Mr. Lawrence, the Viceroy's private secretary, and Colonel Fenn, surgeon to his Excellency, have been honorary secretaries to the Central Committee of the Fund, there should be little difficulty in maintaining the progress that has been made during the past five years. The Earl of Suffolk, who is a lieutenant of the Gloucester Militia, has been appointed an extra aide-de-camp on Lord Curzon's staff. With the appointment of another aide-de-camp, who is to be selected in India, the staff will be complete.

The following curious paragraph appeared in the *Standard* on Monday last:—An announcement that the Hon. S. K. M'Donnell, principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, has the arranging of the dinner to be given at the Hotel Cecil on the eve of Lord Curzon's departure for India, has led to the misapprehension that it is an official or public event. The strictest privacy is desired, and the misapprehension referred to has caused some inconvenience.

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON INDIAN QUESTIONS.

THE WORK OF THE BRITISH COMMITTEE.

As has already been announced, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji will address a further series of meetings in Lancashire next week as follows:—December 12, Stretford; 13, Oldham; 14, Failsworth; 15, Rossendale.

Mr. Romesh C. Dutt, C.I.E., will also address meetings in Lancashire on Monday and Tuesday next, December 12 and 13.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal will deliver an address on Monday next (December 12) at Cricklade upon "India, its life and thought."

Mr. W. S. Caine writes that he is delivering a lecture on the Indian National Congress, illustrated with limelight views, at Dumbarton on Saturday next, December 10.

Recent meetings at which current Indian questions have been dealt with by a lecturer on behalf of the British Committee have been held as follows:—November 30, Carlton, Barnsley (the forward policy); December 1, Huddersfield (the forward policy); December 4, Huddersfield Labour Church ("The Ethical Aspect of English Rule in India").

Meetings have been addressed this week on behalf of the British Committee at Low Moor, Bradford (December 6), and at Stockport (Women's Liberal Association) on December 7.

A lecturer on behalf of the British Committee will address the Women's Liberal Association at Colne on Saturday next, December 10.

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